

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4 and 6 are amended herein. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found on page 14, lines 3-12. The amendments to claims 4 and 6 are editorial in nature. No new matter is presented. Accordingly, upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-8 will be all of the claims pending in the application.

I. Response to Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph

Claims 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, as lacking antecedent basis for the term "the rib".

Claims 4 and 6 are amended by replacing the phrase "the rib" with the phrase "the ribs" as recited in claim 1 from which each of claims 4 and 6 depend; thereby obviating the rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

II. Response to Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Schwinne.

Applicants respectfully submit that Schwinne does not disclose, teach or suggest all elements of the present claims and therefore does not anticipate the present invention.

Amended claim 1 recites a roll support member that is used for suspending in a packaging case a roll-form recording material (1) wound around a core (2). The roll support member comprises a four corner-cut square flange portion (5, 30) having a thickness and an insertion portion (4, 20) that projects cylindrically from substantially the center of the flange portion and is inserted into one end of the core. The flange portion (5, 30) and the insertion portion (4, 20) are formed integrally. The side of the flange portion (5, 30) from which the

insertion portion projects is a flat face (6a, 32). The side (6b, 39) of the flange portion opposite to the flat face (6a, 32) is provided with ribs (51, 52, 53, 54, 55) forming a plurality of energy absorbing space zones (60, 61, 62) disposed substantially concentrically on the flange portion. The outer peripheral side (5a, 37) of the flange portion (5, 30) has a height that is no greater than the height of the ribs.

Schwinne does not disclose, teach or suggest the element of energy absorbing zones disposed substantially concentrically on the flange portion. Schwinne is directed to a suspension piece comprising a hub, a periphery section and support members, wherein the support members are attached to and extend between the hub and the periphery. The suspension piece in Schwinne does not have energy absorbing zones disposed substantially concentrically on the flange portion as recited in present claim 1. For at least this reason Schwinne does not anticipate the presently claimed invention .

Further, the examples of Schwinne, shown as Figures 1 and 6, have openings 11 and 33, respectively, whereas the presently claimed invention has a flange portion that has a flat face. For this additional reason Schwinne does not anticipate the presently claimed invention.

Even further, the present invention provides advantageous effects. The roll support member of the present invention has high resistance to drop impact even when a thin, low strength material is used and can be obtained with low cost. Furthermore, the present invention provides a roll support member that enables discrimination of the product type to be carried out automatically by means of a hole, etc., provided in the flange. Moreover, the roll support member of the present invention and a recording material package are resistant to drop impact even when no light-shielding flange is used at the end of the roll-form recording

material. See specification, page 27. Schwinne does not teach, suggest or even recognize the advantages of the present invention.

In view of the above, Schwinne does not anticipate nor render obvious the present invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

III. Response to Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Schwinne in combination with JP 2002-244249.

According to the Examiner, JP '249 discloses a roll with protecting/suspension members 2 in a housing. The Examiner takes the position that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the apparatus of Schwinne in a housing as taught by JP '249 to facilitate handling or it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to alternatively provide the JP apparatus with protecting/suspension members as taught by Schwinne to more effectively absorb energy.

Applicants respectfully submit that Schwinne does not teach or suggest all elements of amended claim 1 as discussed above. JP '249 like Schwinne, also fails to disclose, teach or suggest the element of energy absorbing zones disposed substantially concentrically on the flange portion recited in amended claim 1. Therefore, JP '248 fails to remedy the deficiencies of Schwinne. Thus, even if combined, the claimed invention as recited in amended claim 1 would not have been achieved. Claims 7 and 8 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and are distinguished over the cited references for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-4 and 6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the elements of the rejected base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants submit that claim 1, as amended, is distinguished over the art of record for the reasons set forth above. Therefore, claims 2-4 and 6, which depend from claim 1, directly or indirectly, are distinguished for at least the same reasons.

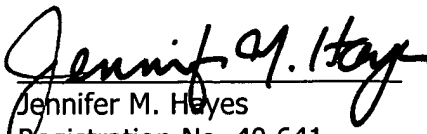
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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